



# ***MEDIA ADVISORY***

## **ST. LOUIS DISTRICT OFFICE U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

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**Release Date:** Immediate

**Contact:** Rose E. Garland, 314-539-6600, ext. 232

**Release No:**

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### ***ST. LOUIS HEARING OFFERS SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS EXCESSIVE FEDERAL REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT***

<b>WHO:</b>	SBA National Ombudsman Michael L. Barrera, members of the Regional Regulatory Fairness Board for Region VII from Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa, and representatives of federal regulatory agencies will hear concerns, comments and complaints about federal regulatory enforcement and compliance. Small business owners, representatives of community organizations and trade associations, and community and business leaders are invited to testify about compliance and enforcement of federal regulations by government regulators.
<b>WHAT:</b>	To create a more cooperative regulatory environment among federal agencies and small businesses, the U.S. Congress has directed the SBA and the national ombudsman to hold Regulatory Fairness (RegFair) hearings. Concerns and complaints aired at this hearing will be directed to the appropriate federal regulatory agency. Testimony gathered at RegFair Hearings about federal regulatory activity and comments, concerns and complaints filed with the national ombudsman are reported to Congress each year.
<b>WHEN:</b>	Wednesday, April 14, 2004 9 a.m. to 12 noon; registration 8:30 a.m.
<b>WHERE:</b>	Center for Emerging Technologies 4041 Forest Park Avenue St. Louis, MO 63108 (Free parking is at the southeast corner of Sarah and Forest Park Avenue.)
<b>MEDIA:</b>	The hearing is open to the press and the public. In addition, Ombudsman Barrera will be available for interviews at the CET April 14.

**Anyone desiring confidentiality may request that his or her name not be released and may submit written testimony in lieu of a public appearance at the hearing.**

Any small business concerned about excessive enforcement of federal regulations can contact their local SBA district office or the National Ombudsman at 888-REG-FAIR (888-734-3247) or go to the National Ombudsman Web site at [www.sba.gov/ombudsman](http://www.sba.gov/ombudsman). Phone numbers for the nearest SBA district office are available by calling the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800-U ASK SBA.